

OPINIONS AND DECLARATIONS RENDERED BY THE INTER- NATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

Edited by

FRANCIS HEMMING, C.M.G., C.B.E.

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OPINION 554

Validation under the Plenary Powers of the generic name *Hoplitoplacenticeras* as from Paulcke, 1906 (Class Cephalopoda, Order Ammonoidea), and designation under the same Powers of a type species for the genus so named



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INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

COMPOSITION AT THE TIME OF THE ADOPTION OF THE RULING GIVEN IN OPINION 554

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OPINION 554

VALIDATION UNDER THE PLENARY POWERS OF THE GENERIC NAME "HOPLITOPLACENTICERAS" AS FROM PAULCKE, 1906 (CLASS CEPHALOPODA, ORDER AMMONOIDEA) AND DESIGNATION UNDER THE SAME POWERS OF A TYPE SPECIES FOR THE GENUS SO NAMED

RULING :—(1) Under the Plenary Powers (a) the generic name *Hoplitoplacenticer*as is hereby validated as from Paulcke, 1906, and (b) under the same Powers the nominal species *Hoplites plasticus* Paulcke, 1906, is hereby designated as the type species of the above genus.

(2) It is hereby directed that the nominal species *Hoplites plasticus* Paulcke, 1906, be interpreted by reference to the lectotype selected therefor by Wright (C.W.) (1957).

(3) The under-mentioned generic name is hereby placed on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* with the Name No. 1348 :—

*Hoplitoplacenticer*as Paulcke, 1906, as validated under the Plenary Powers in (1)(a) above (gender : neuter) (type species, by designation under the Plenary Powers in (1)(b) above : *Hoplites plasticus* Paulcke, 1906, as interpreted by the lectotype specified in (2) above).

(4) The under-mentioned specific name is hereby placed on the *Official List of Specific Names in Zoology* with the Name No. 1629 :—

plasticus Paulcke, 1906, as published in the combination *Hoplites plasticus*, as interpreted by the lectotype specified in (2) above (specific name of type species of *Hoplitoplacenticer*as Paulcke, 1906).

(5) The under-mentioned specific name is hereby placed on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology* with the Name No. 583 :—

semicostatus Paulcke, 1906, as published in the combination *Hoplites plasticus-semicostatus* (a junior objective synonym of the nominate subspecies of the nominal species *Hoplites plasticus* Paulcke, 1906, through the lectotype for that nominal species specified in (2) above).

I. THE STATEMENT OF THE CASE

On 8th January 1957 Mr. C. W. Wright (*London*) submitted to the Office of the Commission the following application for the use of the Plenary Powers for the purpose (a) of validating the generic name *Hoplitoplacenticer*as (Class Cephalopoda, Order Ammonoidea) as from Paulcke, 1906, and (b) of designating for the genus so named a type species in harmony with accustomed usage :—

Proposed use of the Plenary Powers to validate the generic name "Hoplitoplacenticeras" (Class Cephalopoda, Order Ammonoidea) (Upper Cretaceous) as from Paulcke, 1906, and to determine its type species

By C. W. WRIGHT

(*London*)

The purpose of the present application is to ask the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature to give a direction as to the interpreta-

tion of the nominal species *Hoplites plasticus* Paulcke, 1906, the type species of the genus *Hoplitoplacenticer* Paulcke, 1906, and, having done so, to place the name of that genus on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology*.

2. In 1906 W. Paulcke described and figured a series of ammonites from the Upper Cretaceous Campanian stage in Patagonia. Among them was a group of forms which he regarded as transitional between the genera *Hoplites* Neumayr, 1875, and *Placenticer* Meek, 1876. He headed the section of his paper which dealt with this group (: 12-54) "*Hoplites-Placenticer*" but later had a heading "*Hoplitoplacenticer*". He explains (: 17) that these "transitional" forms can be described as "*Hoplitoplacenticer*": those that show strong hoplitoid characteristics might, he suggested, be written with the "*Hoplitoplacenticer*" portion in roman, and the "*-placenticer*" portion in italic type, while the reverse method might be employed for those with placenticeratoid characteristics. Paulcke's ideas are so peculiar that I annex below a facsimile of the passage in question :—

Facsimile of the first complete paragraph on page 183
(= page 17 of separate) of Paulcke's paper

Zwischenformen zwischen *Hoplites* und *Placenticer* würden dementsprechend als *Hoplitoplacenticer* bezeichnet. Wiegen Hoplitidenmerkmale vor, so wäre der Name *Hoplitoplacenticer* zu schreiben, wiegen Placenticeratenmerkmale vor, so müsste *Hoplitoplacenticer* stehen. — Bei etwa Gleichwertigkeit der Merkmale würde kein Name hervorgehoben. — Als Beispiel eines echten *Placenticer* wäre *Placenticer placenta* MEEK anzuführen, während *Placenticer pacificum* SMITH nach obigen Auseinandersetzungen als *Hoplitoplacenticer* zu bezeichnen wäre. Unter dem vorliegenden Material würden die Formen des *plasticus-laevis* als *Hoplitoplacenticer* bezeichnet werden können, wenn man es nicht vorzieht, sie einfach noch *Hoplites* zu nennen.

3. Despite these generic names Paulcke described all his new species and subspecies of the group simply as "*Hoplites*". He refers (: 20) to the "Gruppe des *Hoplites plasticus* Paulcke" and the following "Untergruppen" :—

"*Hoplites plasticus-Hauthali* "
 plasticus-crassus "
 plasticus-costatus "
 plasticus-semicostatus "
 plasticus-laevis "

After preliminary discussion of each "Untergruppe" he describes each in the form normal for specific or subspecific descriptions, but describes no *H. plasticus plasticus*.

4. Cossman (1907 : 239) in a footnote to Sayn's review of Paulcke's paper pointed out that these proposals (paragraph 3 above) were completely contrary to the accepted rules of nomenclature.

5. However, the generic name *Hoplitoplacenticer*, so spelt, has come into general use and is attributed to Paulcke. Spath used it in 1922 (: 111). Diener in his *Fossilium Catalogus* volume lists it and gives as type species "*Hoplit**es plasticus* Paulcke". Roman (1938 : 505) describes it and gives as type species "*Hoplit**es plasticus* Paulcke". Usher (1952 : 93) describes a new species and gives as type species of the genus "*Hoplit**es plasticus-hauthali* Paulcke". In 1953 Spath refers to the genus and sets out the peculiar history of the name, described in paragraphs 2 to 3 above. He mentions also the name *Dechenoceras*, listed by Kayser in 1924 as the generic name of the species *Ammonites coesfeldiensis* Schlueter, 1867, a species which Spath and other authors regard as congeneric with the *plasticus* group. All the forms figured and described by Paulcke were so described in a way appropriate to subspecies, that is, as trinominals, apart from the fact that he linked the subspecific to the specific name with a hyphen. Clearly, he regarded them all as subspecies of one species which would consequently be the type species of his genus by monotypy.

6. Kayser's work is a textbook. The name *Dechenoceras* appears twice (: 175, 176), in the combination "*Dechenoceras coesfeldiense* Schlüter", in lists of characteristic fossils. To the best of my knowledge the name has not appeared before or since, except in the reference by Spath, quoted in paragraph 5 above. It is possible that Kayser quoted it from the manuscript of a colleague in the expectation that the name would have been validated in print before the publication of his own book.

7. Despite the irregularity of its publication the name *Hoplitoplacenticer* is in general use. Confusion would be caused if it were to be replaced by *Dechenoceras* or some new name and no damage would be done to the name of any other animal if the name *Hoplitoplacenticer* were to continue in use. It would be both logical and desirable that the name should continue to be attributed to Paulcke, in whose paper are to be found descriptions of a number of forms of the genus.

8. Paulcke described no nominate subspecies for his nominal species *Hoplit**es plasticus* and one of his subspecific names must therefore become synonymous with the nominate one. Usher's mention of *Hoplit**es plasticus-hauthali*, referred to above, may have been intended as a selection of *hauthali* as a synonym of *Hoplit**es plasticus plasticus* but, if it was so intended, his words cannot be accepted as a selection, if that term is rigidly construed. In 1953, however, Spath in the paper referred to in paragraph 5 above stated that "it is advisable to select a definite type species of *Hoplitoplacenticer* from among the various *plasticus* forms of Paulcke and I propose to take as typical *H. plasticus* the species represented by Paulcke's pl. xiii, figs. 1, ia—d (1906, p. 204¹ = "*H. plasticus-semicostatus*") which is intermediate between the extremes, *H. hauthali* and *H. laevis*". I believe that the foregoing selection by Spath might be held to be valid, Spath clearly believing some or all of Paulcke's named forms as representing full species. In anticipation, however, of the possibility that the Commission might take the view that, rigidly construed, a formal lectotype selection for the nominal species *Hoplit**es plasticus* Paulcke is required, I hereby select as the lectotype of that species the specimen figured as *Hoplit**es plasticus-semicostatus* by Paulcke as figures 1, 1a, and 1b on plate XIII(4) of his paper.

¹ The page numbered "204" in Paulcke's paper was published in the serial *Ber. naturforsch. Ges. of Freiburg*. The same page bearing the number 38 appeared in the better-known separately-paged off print.

9. No family-group-name problem arises in the present case, the genus *Hoplitoplacenticeras* Paulcke being currently placed in the family PLACENTICERATIDAE Hyatt, 1900 (type genus: *Placenticeras* (emend. of *Placentoceras*) Meek, 1870).

10. I therefore invite the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature :—

(1) to use its Plenary Powers to validate the generic name *Hoplitoplacenticeras* as from Paulcke, 1906, with the nominal species *Hoplites plasticus* Paulcke, 1906, as type species ;

(2) to direct that the nominal species *Hoplites plasticus* Paulcke, 1906, be interpreted by the lectotype selection made in paragraph 8 above ;

(3) to place the under-mentioned generic name on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* :—

Hoplitoplacenticeras Paulcke, 1906, as validated under the Plenary Powers in (1) above (gender : neuter) (type species, by designation under the Plenary Powers in (1) above : *Hoplites plasticus* Paulcke, 1906, as interpreted in (2) above) ;

(4) to place the under-mentioned specific name on the *Official List of Specific Names in Zoology* :—

plasticus Paulcke, 1906, as published in the combination *Hoplites plasticus* and interpreted as prescribed in (2) above (specific name of type species of *Hoplitoplacenticeras* Paulcke, 1906) ;

(5) to place the under-mentioned specific name on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology* :—

semicostatus Paulcke, 1906, as published in the combination *Hoplites plasticus-semicostatus* (a junior objective synonym of the nominate subspecies of *Hoplites plasticus* Paulcke, 1906, through the lectotype selection approved in (2) above).

References

- Cossman, M., 1907 : *Revue critique de Paléozoologie*, Paris
- Diener, C., 1925 : *Fossilium Catalogus* (1) 29, Ammonoidea neocretacea
- Kayser, E., 1924 : *Lehrbuch der Geologie* 4, 2, Stuttgart
- Paulcke, W., 1906 : "Die Cephalopoden der oberen Kreide Südpatagoniens", *Bericht. naturforsch. Ges. Freiburg* 15 : 167–244
- Roman, F., 1938 : *Les Ammonites jurassiques et crétacées. Essai de genera*, Paris
- Spath, L. F., 1922 : "On Cretaceous Ammonoidea from Angola", *Trans. Roy. Soc. Edinburgh* 53 : 91–160
- , 1953 : "The Upper Cretaceous Cephalopod Fauna of Graham Land", *Falkland Islands Dependencies Surv., Sci. Rep.*, : 3
- Usher, J. L., 1952 : "Ammonite Faunas of the Upper Cretaceous Rocks of Vancouver Island, British Columbia", *Bull. Geol. Surv. Canada* 21

II. THE SUBSEQUENT HISTORY OF THE CASE

2. Registration of the present application : Upon the receipt of Mr. Wright's application the question of the possible use of the Plenary Powers for the purpose of validating the generic name *Hoplitoplacenticeras* as from Paulcke, 1906, was allotted the Registered Number Z.N.(S.)1197.

3. Publication of the present application : The present application was sent to the printer on 11th March 1957 and was published on 28th June of the same year in Part 7 of Volume 13 of the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature* (Wright, 1957, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 13 : 221-224).

4. Issue of Public Notices : Under the revised procedure prescribed by the Thirteenth International Congress of Zoology, Paris, 1948 (1950, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 4 : 51-56), Public Notice of the possible use by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature of its Plenary Powers in the present case was given on 28th June 1957 (a) in Part 7 of Volume 13 of the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature* (the Part in which Mr. Wright's application was published) and (b) to the other prescribed serial publications. In addition, such Notice was given also to four general zoological serial publications and to three palaeontological serials in Europe and America.

5. No Objection Received : Neither the publication of the present application in the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature* nor the issue of Public Notices in regard thereto elicited any objection from any source to the action proposed.

III. THE DECISION TAKEN BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

6. Issue of Voting Paper V.P.(57)70 : On 30th December 1957, a Voting Paper (V.P.(57)70) was issued in which the Members of the Commission were invited to vote either for, or against, "the proposal relating to the generic name *Hoplitoplacenticeras* as from Paulcke, 1906 (Class Cephalopoda, Order Ammonoidea), as set out in Points (1) to (5) in paragraph 10 on pages 223-224 in Volume 13 of the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature*" [i.e. in the Points numbered as above in paragraph 10 of the paper reproduced in the first paragraph of the present *Opinion*].

7. The Prescribed Voting Period : As the foregoing Voting Paper was issued under the Three-Month Rule, the Prescribed Voting Period closed on 30th March 1958.

8. Particulars of the Voting on Voting Paper V.P.(57)70 : At the close of the Prescribed Voting Period, the state of the voting on Voting Paper V.P.(57)70 was as follows :—

(a) *Affirmative Votes had been given by the following twenty-two (22) Commissioners (arranged in the order in which Votes were received) :*

Holthuis ; Mayr ; Boschma ; Hering ; Mertens ; Prantl ; Vokes ; Lemche ; do Amaral ; Bonnet ; Jaczewski ; Dymond ; Hankó ; Key ; Bodenheimer ; Bradley (J.C.) ; Hemming ; Sylvester-Bradley ; Stoll ; Tortonese ; Kühnelt ; Riley ;

(b) *Negative Votes :*

None ;

(c) *On Leave of Absence, one (1) :*

Miller ;

(d) *Voting Papers not returned, one (1) :*

Cabrera.

9. Declaration of Result of Vote : On 31st March 1958, Mr. Hemming, Secretary to the International Commission, acting as Returning Officer for the Vote taken on Voting Paper V.P.(57)70, signed a Certificate that the Votes cast were as set out in paragraph 8 above and declaring that the proposal submitted in the foregoing Voting Paper had been duly adopted and that the decision so taken was the decision of the International Commission in the matter aforesaid.

10. Preparation of the Ruling given in the present " Opinion " : On 22nd May 1958, Mr. Hemming prepared the Ruling given in the present *Opinion* and at the same time signed a Certificate that the terms of that Ruling were in complete accord with those of the proposal approved by the International Commission in its Vote on Voting Paper V.P.(57)70.

11. Original References for Generic and Specific Names : The following are the original references for the generic and specific names placed on *Official Lists* and *Official Indexes* by the Ruling given in the present *Opinion* :—

Hoplitoplacenticer Paulcke, 1906, *Ber. naturforsch. Ges. Freiburg* 15 : 183 (p. 17 of separate)

plasticus, *Hoplites*, Paulcke, 1906, *Ber. naturforsch. Ges. Freiburg* 15 : 186 (p. 20 of separate)

semicostatus, *Hoplites plasticus*, Paulcke, 1906, *Ber. naturforsch. Ges. Freiburg* 15 : 203-204 (pp. 37-38 of separate)

12. Reference for the selection of a lectotype for a nominal species : The following is the reference for the selection of a lectotype for a nominal species specified in the Ruling given in the present *Opinion* :—

For *Hoplites plasticus* Paulcke, 1906 Wright (C.W.), 1957, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 13 : 223, paragraph 8

13. Family-Group-Name Aspects : The applicant reports (paragraph 9 of the paper reproduced in the first paragraph of the present *Opinion*) that no family-group-name problem arises in the present case, the genus *Hoplitoplacenticer* Paulcke, 1906, being currently placed in the family PLACENTICERATIDAE Hyatt, 1900.

14. Compliance with Prescribed Procedures : The prescribed procedures were duly complied with by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature in dealing with the present case, and the present *Opinion* is accordingly hereby rendered in the name of the said International Commission by the under-signed Francis Hemming, Secretary to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, in virtue of all and every the powers conferred upon him in that behalf.

15. " Opinion " Number : The present *Opinion* shall be known as *Opinion* Five Hundred and Fifty-Four (554) of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature.

DONE in London, this Twenty-Second day of May, Nineteen Hundred and Fifty-Eight.

*Secretary to the International Commission
on Zoological Nomenclature*
FRANCIS HEMMING